



# Control Options for Garden Loosestrife

## General Information

Garden loosestrife, sometimes also called yellow loosestrife, is a native of Eurasia, introduced to North America as a garden ornamental. It invades wetland areas, spreading by seeds and rhizomes. In Whatcom County it is known to grow on the shoreline of Lake Whatcom in Basins 1 and 2.

## Manual/Mechanical Techniques

Seedlings and small infestations can be dug by hand, although care must be taken to dispose of the plants so they cannot resprout. Since rhizomes left in the ground can sprout, it is important to remove as much of the root system as possible. The area should be rechecked periodically to find any possible regrowth. Mowing, if done throughout the season, can prevent seed formation, although it will not prevent the spread of rhizomes. As plant fragments can root, all fragments should be collected and disposed of properly. Do not mow where fragments will get into water bodies, as this will only spread plants. At some small sites, a covering of black plastic or landscape fabrics has been used to suppress plants. This will not kill the roots of mature plants but will slow the spread and possibly kill seedlings. The cover must be weighted down with several inches of mulch and extend several feet beyond the edges of the infestation. The area must be monitored for plants growing through or beyond the covering.



## Chemical Recommendations

Garden loosestrife can be managed using the following specific herbicides. When using herbicides, always read and follow label directions for rates, spraying conditions, personal protective equipment and grazing intervals. If spraying is the chosen option, spray late in the evening to reduce the direct impact on pollinating insects. Do not spray when it is windy or raining, or when rain is forecast. Herbicides should not be sprayed within 60 feet of water bodies and creeks, without further consultation with the Noxious Weed Board. Remember, it is the herbicide applicators responsibility to apply the product in accordance to the instructions on the label. Pay careful attention to label instructions and follow directions closely.

**Glyphosate** (e.g. Round Up® and many others; aquatic formulations include Rodeo® and AquaMaster®, others). Foliar applications should be made to actively growing plants at full to late flowering stage. Glyphosate is a nonselective herbicide and will kill or injure other plants it contacts.

**Imazapyr** (e.g. Habitat®). Foliar applications should be made to actively growing plants. Imazapyr is a nonselective herbicide and will kill or injure other plants it contacts.

**Triclopyr** (e.g. Garlon3A® and Renovate3®). Foliar applications should be made when plants are at mid to full flowering stage. Triclopyr is a selective herbicide, killing only dicot plants, but not harming grasses, sedges, cattails and other monocots.

**NEVER apply RoundUp® or other herbicides to standing water unless they are distinctly labeled for aquatic use.** Ingredients in non-aquatic products may be toxic to fish and other aquatic organisms. Aquatic formulations of herbicides are generally only available to licensed pesticide applicators in Washington State. If the target plants are immediately adjacent to or are in standing water, a state permit may be required in order to treat those plants with an aquatically approved herbicide.

- **Always read and understand the label of the herbicides you choose to use.**
- **More is NOT better when using herbicides, and may actually hinder the ability of the herbicide to injure the target plant if the solution is too strong. This wastes money and effort and puts more product into the environment than is necessary. ALWAYS follow the recommended rates on the label.**
- **With all herbicides, when you apply them is as important as how you apply them.**

*The mention of a specific product brand name in this document is not, and should not be construed as an endorsement or as a recommendation for the use of that product.* Herbicide information is taken from the WSU Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook and King County Noxious Weed Program (Seattle WA).